

REMARKS

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No: 6,138,130 (Adler) in view of a publication by Jennings entitled, "Using Access 95" (Jennings).

According to the present invention, the data has a different tabular format after the performed operation than it had before the performed operation. See Page 9, paragraph 4 of the Specification. See *a/so* Figure 4, for example.

Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended claim 1 is patentable over Adler in view of Jennings, as neither Adler nor Jennings, taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, "the one piece of two-dimensional data having a different tabular format from the input two-dimensional data."

In the example discussed in Adler, the objects in cells A1 through A5 are added together, and the sum of the objects is outputted to cell A6. Rather than inputting two-dimensional data and performing an operation that will output one piece of two-dimensional data having a different tabular format, as is recited in currently amended claim 1 of the present application, Adler discloses in Columns 24 and 25 that a single value in a cell is calculated. Adler allows the operation results presented in cell A6 to adapt to different types of objects that are included in cells A1 through A5, but Adler does not produce a one piece of two-dimensional data having a different tabular format from the input two-dimensional data.

Changing the tabular format of the cells in the two-dimensional data would not be possible in Adler. This is in contrast to claim 1 of the present application, which recites, in relevant part, "the one piece of two-dimensional data having a different tabular format from the input two-dimensional data."

Jennings also does not teach or suggest the above-identified feature. Jennings discloses assignment and comparison operators for comparing values of two operands and returning logical values. See Jennings, page 288, last paragraph. Unlike the present invention, Jennings simply calculates a single value and places it into a cell. No changing of tabular format is performed, period.

As asserted by the Examiner, SQL join operators are known in the art. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that when a join operation is used, it essentially simply merges groups of data. Unlike the present invention, a join operation does not produce a change of tabular format.

As independent claims 5, 9, 13, and 15 recite similar language, Applicants submit that

these claims are patentable over the reference for the same reason presented above. As dependent claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 depend from respective independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to the independent claims.

Further, in Adler, operations are assumed as cell operations, which can realize operations such as sum of columns, for example, that the number of cells in which results are input is preliminarily decided from the start. In Adler, an operation in which the number of the cells depends on the operation results, for example, "extract all rows of which cell value of the second column exceeds 100," cannot be realized by Adler, due to such an operation strongly requiring an operation with whole rows and columns instead of a cell operation.

The Examiner's indication with regard to Access™ 95 may be appropriate only in the case where a relational operation is subjected to data which is designed according to a relational model. In other cases, the indication is inaccurate. In fact, most spreadsheets are not designed along the relational model. In addition, any cooperation of non-relational data with Access™ 95 is not obvious.

With regard to the term "conversion of the substance between numbers of rows and number of columns" as mentioned in Applicants' previous Response, the term should be interpreted to mean, for example, that data shown in Fig. 27 of the present application is converted to data shown in Fig. 41 or Fig. 42, of the present application. If arbitrary format data as shown in Fig. 27 is input into a relational database without conversion, it is impossible to create a relational operation formula which changes the arbitrary format data to data as shown in Figs. 41 or 42.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

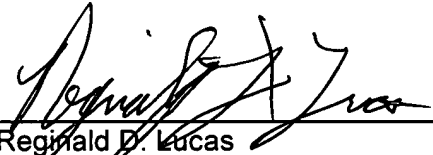
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11/28/05

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